

# THE OLD STONE WALL

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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**Landmark covered railroad bridge is looking sharp**



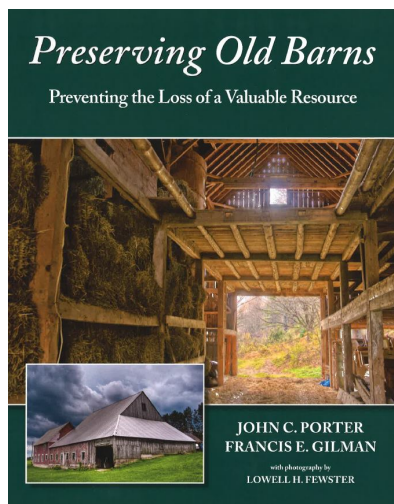
*The Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge in the heyday of train travel and today, sporting its new coat of stain.*

The **Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge** -- the oldest surviving bridge of its kind in the world -- received a new coat of Boston & Maine maroon stain and some minor structural repairs in May. Built in 1889 for the Concord and Claremont Railroad, the bridge served rail traffic until 1960 and was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Today, it serves as an icon for the village and is a tourist destination.

The **NH Conservation and Heritage License Plate program** funded the project. One hundred percent of funds raised through the sales of "Moose Plates" are used for a variety of heritage, conservation and preservation projects across the state. (*You can learn more about Moose Plates in this edition of The Old Stone Wall; see below.*)

The Town of Hopkinton's 250th Anniversary Committee, the Contoocook Railway Association and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges partnered with the NHDHR on the project.

Befitting the bridge's landmark status, the project received impressive coverage in the media, and *New Hampshire Magazine* recently named it a "Best of New Hampshire" winner as well. When asked by WMUR's Mike Cherry if the bridge could last another 130 years, NHDHR Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth H. Muzzey commented, "I hope it can last another 500 years." Well said!



## Classic barn preservation book gets an update

For nearly two decades, *Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the Loss of a Valuable Resource* by John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman has served as the go-to handbook for anyone interested in learning not only about preserving barns, but also about the different types of barns and barn history.

A newly-released second edition of this preservation classic is making its way to bookstores right now. At nearly twice the length of the original edition, this updated version of *Preserving Old Barns* describes current techniques for repairing barns, as well as

descriptions of how barn styles have evolved to suit different agricultural needs. Hundreds of photographs and images provide inspiration for barn fans and barn owners.

The second edition is available through local bookstores and online from the [N.H. Preservation Alliance](#) and the [NHDHR's website](#).

## SCRAP field school season is in full swing

The NHDHR's **State Conservation Rescue Archaeology Program** -- affectionately known as "[SCRAP](#)" -- has been busily involved in field schools across New Hampshire this summer.

In June and early July, SCRAP coordinated with Great Bay Archaeological Survey and the University of New Hampshire on an investigation of a 17th-century historic site in Durham.

We then returned for a third summer to Livermore Hollow. At the request of N.H. State Parks (which, like the NHDHR, is a division of the N.H. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources), our investigations began at a mid-19th century mill site and village. Since then, we've discovered evidence of pre-Contact habitation, including a nearly intact hearth feature (see below). We hope to return the Livermore in the future to learn more about this important site.



*We dig finding important features like these at field school!*

New this year is our final field school session, which requires a little something unusual: we're doing preliminary work at a site at Pillsbury State Park that can only be accessed via canoe. Indications are that SCRAPpers will find pre-Contact deposits; if so, there may be more opportunities for future field schools at the site.

One more exciting development: we're working to create a promotional and informational short video about SCRAP and its field schools, which we hope to be able to share with you in the next issue of *The Old Stone Wall*.

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## Have you met EMMIT yet?

When we launched our new mapping application, **EMMIT** (which stands for "Enhanced Mapping and Management Information Tool"), in April, we knew it would be a big deal--but we were unprepared for just how big of a deal it's become. Comments have ranged from "We are thrilled with the technological advancements that EMMIT has introduced to New Hampshire's historic resources" to "SOOOOOOOOOO COOL!!!!!!!" We know we have a winner here!





## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES EMMIT Enhanced Mapping & Management Information Tool

EMMIT is a map-based online inventory of the historic and archaeological records on file at the NH Division of Historical Resources (DHR), NH's State Historic Preservation Office.

### EXPLORE DHR'S NEWLY DIGITIZED RECORDS!

Instantly access more than 16,000 documents including State and National Register nominations, historic districts, building and archaeological inventory forms and survey reports.

**EMMIT IS THE ONLY UP-TO-DATE, COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY OF THE STATE'S HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

To learn more about the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and its programs, please visit our website at [www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr).

EMMIT has been funded in part with federal Emergency Supplemental funding from the Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) through the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (DOI) as a result of Superstorm Sandy. Its contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of DOI, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute DOI endorsement or recommendation.

EMMIT has also been funded in part by the State of New Hampshire Conservation and Heritage License Plate Program. All funds raised through the purchase of state Conservation License Plates are used for the promotion, protection and investment in New Hampshire's historic, natural, and cultural resources.



EMMIT offers a number of mapping and data tools that help users search for information in more than 16,000 documents on file at the NHDHR. The entire system is available to subscribers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Subscribers can perform both data searches and map searches, and the following types of documents are available for searches and viewing and can be downloaded as PDFs:

- National Register of Historic Places nomination forms, photos and maps
- N.H. State Register of Historic Places inventory forms, photos and maps
- Individual inventory forms, photos and maps
- Project area forms, photos and maps
- Historic district area forms, photos and maps
- Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation
- Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation
- New Hampshire Historic Property Documentation
- Archaeological site forms (restricted access)
- Archaeological survey reports (restricted access, survey locations are not available within the GIS map)

Access to EMMIT is available through subscription, which varies depending on the type of organization, number of users and length of subscription. For more information, visit [EMMIT.dncr.nh.gov](http://EMMIT.dncr.nh.gov).

## NH Historical Highway Marker gets international attention

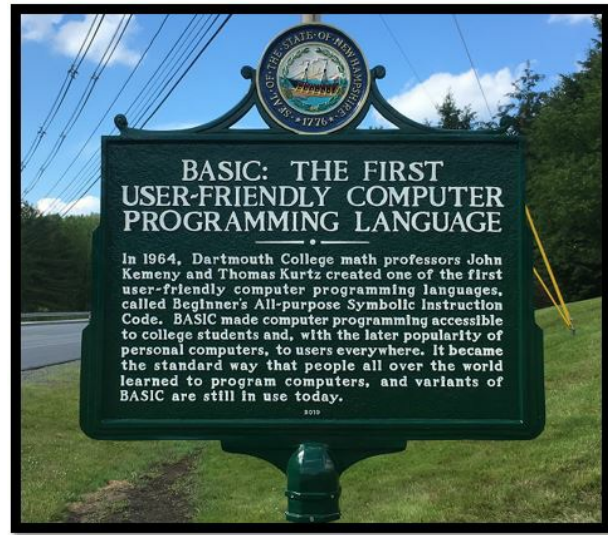
New Hampshire's **Historical Highway Marker program** has always drawn tourists from around the country, but one of our most recently installed markers is receiving attention from technology fans around the world.

The marker is located on Route 120 in Hanover and honors BASIC, a

computer language created at nearby Dartmouth College. The marker reads:

## "BASIC: THE FIRST USER-FRIENDLY COMPUTER PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

"In 1964, Dartmouth College math professors John Kemeny and Thomas Kurtz created one of the first user-friendly computer programming languages, called Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. BASIC made computer programming accessible to college students and, with the later popularity of personal computers, to users everywhere. It became the standard way that people all over the world learned to program computers, and variants of BASIC are still in use today."



Do you have a topic that you think would make a great marker? You can learn more about the process at [nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/index.html](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/markers/index.html).



## More than a dozen properties added to NH State Register of Historic Places

The NHDHR is pleased to announce that the State Historical Resources Council has added nineteen properties to the **New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places**.

The State Register has helped to promote the significance of many historic properties across New Hampshire. Benefits of being listed on the State Register include:

- Acknowledgment of a property's historical significance in the community
- Special consideration and relief from some building codes and regulations; and
- Designation of a property as historical, which is a pre-qualification for many grant programs, including Conservation and Heritage License Plate grants and New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grants.

The new listings are:

**District 5/Sunny Valley Schoolhouse**, Mason (1821)

**Bow Baptist Church** (c.1832)

**Mt. Caesar Union Library**, Swanzey (1843)

**The Oblates of Mary Immaculate Seminary** (1843) and **Shrine of Our Lady of Grace** (1964), Columbia

**First Congregational Church of Sullivan** (1848)

**James E. French House**, Moultonborough (c.1850)

**The First Congregational Church of Kensington** (1865)

**Chatham Congregational Church** (1871)

**Newbury Town Hall** (1876)

**Ranlet Café**, Bethlehem (c.1880)

**East Hebron Schoolhouse** (1888)

Wright's Blacksmith Shop, Gilsom (c.1890)  
Monroe Grange Hall No. 49 (1899)  
Lyman Grange Hall No. 237 (1901)  
Sunapee Lake Grange #112, Newbury (1902)  
Selectmen's Office, Newbury (1916)  
Harriman Hale American Legion Post No. 18, Wolfeboro (1928)  
Homewood, Gilford (1930)  
Chesley Memorial Library, Northwood (1954)

Anyone wishing to nominate a property to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places must research the history of the nominated property and document it fully on an individual inventory form from the NHDHR. Having a property listed in the State Register offers a number of benefits but does not impose restrictions on property owners.

Learn more about the NH State Register of Historic Places at [nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state\\_register.html](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/state_register.html) or by contacting Megan Rupnik, [megan.rupnik@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:megan.rupnik@dncr.nh.gov), 271-6435.

## NH's most recent National Register listings highlight multiple industries

New Hampshire's historical properties are diverse and the NHDHR is proud to announce four that were recently honored with placement on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

Farmed continuously since Stratham was settled, the **Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm** is one of the few properties in town remaining in agricultural production today. A majority of the buildings date to 1836; the free-standing English barn, built in the 18th century, is a rare surviving example of that structure type.

Daniel Pickering, owner of the 19th-century connected building **Pickering House**, was a merchant and a manufacturer, Wolfeboro's first postmaster, a founder of the town's first secondary school and Congregational Church, and secretary to the school that eventually became Brewster Academy.

The first summer camp in the United States dedicated to boys under 14, **Camp Mowglis** in Hebron was founded in 1903 by Elizabeth Ford Holt, who had previously founded nearby Camp Redcroft for girls. It takes its name directly from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*.

Built in 1938, **Nansen Ski Jump** in Milan retains its original design as a competitive ski jumping complex and is likely the most intact nationally prominent historic ski jumping facility in the United States. It was the site of several major regional, national and international competitions.

Among other benefits, listing to the National Register in New Hampshire makes applicable



(top-bottom: Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm, Pickering House, Camp Mowglis, Nansen Ski Jump)



property owners eligible for grants such as the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program or LCHIP ([lchip.org](http://lchip.org)) and the Conservation and Heritage License Plate Program ([nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose)).

Learn more about the National Register of Historic Places in New Hampshire at [nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/national\\_register.html](http://nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/national_register.html) or by contacting Brandee Loughlin, [brandee.loughlin@dncr.nh.gov](mailto:brandee.loughlin@dncr.nh.gov), 271-3583.

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## Seen a "P" Moose Plate yet?

It's been a full year since **N.H. Conservation and Heritage License Plates** -- best known as "Moose Plates" -- began sporting the letter "P" in their combinations. If you didn't guess already, that "P" stands for preservation\*, which is always a little extra exciting to see as we drive around the state.

Since they made their debut, more than 10,000 "P" Moose Plates have been sold, raising more than \$300,000 for a variety of conservation, heritage and preservation programs statewide, including the [NHDHR's Conservation and Heritage License Plate Grant program](#), which provides grants for the preservation of significant publicly owned historic resources and artifacts.

And if you're wondering, every single dollar raised through the sale of Moose Plates goes right back into the program, so you know that your funds are well spent. The Contoocook Covered Railroad Bridge project that leads this edition of *The Old Stone Wall* is one example of Moose Plate funds at work. For more information, including projects from other divisions within the N.H. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources and other state agencies, visit [mooseplate.com](http://mooseplate.com).



*\*Fun fact: older Moose Plates include a "C" for "conservation" or an "H" for "heritage."*



### Director/SHPO Muzzey interviewed in NH Business Review

You may have heard by now that NHDHR Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth H. Muzzey is leaving state service on July 31.

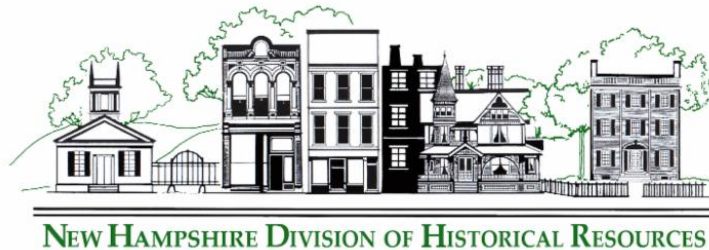
She recently spoke with *N.H. Business Review* about her experiences as New Hampshire's longest-serving SHPO, what makes a place historic, working with federal standards and the important role historic preservation plays in New Hampshire's identity.

[Read the full NHBR interview here.](#)

## Stay involved in historic preservation

Between issues of *The Old Stone Wall*, you can remain active in New Hampshire's preservation community. Good places to start are your local community's historic and preservation organizations, the [NH History Network](#) and the [NH Preservation Alliance website](#).

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*Working together to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through education, stewardship and protection.*

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YouTube: [NH Division of Historical Resources](#)

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